



**Hearing Testimony March 29, 2023  
House Ways & Means Committee  
Service Employees International Union, Local 500, CTW, CLC**

**Senate Bill 350: Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program - Funding**

**SUPPORT**

Submitted to: Chairman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkens, and members of the House Ways & Means Committee.

Submitted by Terry Cavanagh, SEIU State Council Director

SEIU Local 500 represents approximately 20,000 working people across our region. Our membership includes the thousands of support staff at school support staff, part-time faculty at many area colleges and universities, childcare providers, and more. We are the fastest growing public sector union in our state.

Maryland's working families, especially low-wage and working-class earners need quality, accessible, affordable childcare. Passing SB 350 will make that a reality for more families.

This is good for children.

This is good for working mothers and fathers.

This is good for providers.

This is good for Maryland's employers.

**Thanks to the work of many in Maryland, including members of the General Assembly, we have raised scholarship rates from the 9<sup>th</sup> percentile in 2018 to the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile in 2022. We cannot afford to let the progress we have made to be lost. Passing SB 350 makes good on the promise to the next generation of Marylanders to have more opportunity.**

We thank the bill's sponsor, Senator King as well as the sponsor of the cross-filed bill HB 495, Delegate Solomon **and ask that you vote yes and**

**urge a favorable committee report for SB 350.**

**Thank you.**

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Pia Morrison, President**